JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE

9

FEB 94

JEPH LOEB

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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NEW BLOOD FOR THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE™

WILD TIME!

Velluto
Albrecht

GOTHAM CITY. SATURDAY NIGHT.

INSPECTOR DAD

GOOD MOVIE.

THEY SHOULD MAKE MORE FAMILY FILMS.

EVERYTHING TODAY IS SO VIOLENT.

DAD, VIOLENCE IN MOVIES JUST *MIRRORS* REAL LIFE.

IF I WANTED REAL LIFE, WHY GO TO THE MOVIES?

UM, DAD, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY?

OF COURSE! I PARKED THE CAR RIGHT OVER--

NICE NIGHT FOR A STROLL.

THE WALLET. THE PURSE. NOW.

WELL, WELL, WELL...

...MIGHT WANT TO TAKE OUR TIME WITH THIS ONE...

THIS STOPS NOW!

WHO THE--?!

$%¢ę*! IT'S THE BAT--

NO. IT'S...JOE PUBLIC.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS.

THIS IS MY TURF NOW. AND I DON'T LIKE--

BITE MINE!

WASTE HIM!

HAHAHA

NICE CAREER, JOE DOOFIS!

SAW THIS IN A COMIC BOOK ONCE...

...HEY...THAT WORKED! NOW LET'S TRY--

HOLD IT, HERO!

NOW. WE WALK OUTTA HERE--

--AND YOU FLY OFF...OR WHATEVER!

EASY...

...I DIDN'T COUNT ON THIS...

...NOT PREPARED FOR THIS...

I SAID, FLY, FREAK!

KA-CHAK

HEY! GIMME THAT BACK--!

POP!

MY PIECE!

COOL.

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!

DID... I DO THAT?!

KLONK!

BOP!

D-DON'T HIT M-ME-- I GIVE UP!

YOU GOT SOME WEIRD POWERS, MAN...

O-KAY...

...PUT YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM.

WHEW

FIRST HE DOVE OUTTA THE SKY!
AND HE LIFTED UP THE BUILDING!
AND HE CAN, uh, TALK TO ANIMALS!
YEAH. YEAH.
"JOE PUBLIC"; HUH? WELL... WE CAN USE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.
SO MUCH ABOUT MY POWERS I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...EVER SINCE I GOT THAT ALIEN BITE... MY LIFE'S BEEN UPSIDE DOWN. AND NOW THIS!
CONFUSED?
TAP
DON'T BE.
IT WAS ME.
GEIST. THE TWILIGHT MAN.
THANKS. I GUESS.
YOU SEEM DISAPPOINTED.
IT'S JUST... THIS JUST CONFIRMS WHAT I'VE BEEN FEELING.
I'M NOT READY FOR THIS GAME.
HEY, I DON'T KNOW SQUAT ABOUT BEING A SUPER-HERO EITHER.
I TOOK THE GUN. THEN I MADE IT DISAPPEAR. IT'S WHAT I DO.
SO... MAYBE WE CAN GET US A MENTOR. SOMEBODY WHO CAN TEACH US THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE.
YOU MEAN... LIKE... THE BATMAN?
TRIED THAT. WAY TOO SERIOUS.
YOU KNOW ANYBODY IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?

NEW YORK CITY. JUSTICE LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS. SATURDAY NIGHT.

WEEKS. WEEKS I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR TONIGHT.

NO MISSIONS. NO DUTIES. NO ONE HOME.

NO BEETLE. NO BOOSTER.

NO GUY.

SATURDAY NIGHTS ALL RIGHT FOR FIGHTIN'!

A *NEW BLOOD* SPECIAL -- STARRING

JOE PUBLIC
CREATED BY ALAN GRANT AND NORM BREYFOGLE

GEIST
CREATED BY CHUCK DIXON AND JIM BALENT

LOOSE CANNON
CREATED BY JEPH LOEB AND LEE MODER

THIS STORY CREATED BY
JEPH LOEB - WRITER
GREG LAROCQUE - PENCILS
KEVIN CONRAD - INKS
BOB PINAHA - LETTERS
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORS
RUBEN DIAZ - ASST EDITOR
BRIAN AUGUSTYN - EDITOR

NOW, WE'VE GOT TROUBLE, MY FRIENDS...

MGRRRRRRR

NOBODY TO TAKE MY CHAIR...

...NOBODY WHO WANTS A BITE OF MY SANDWICH...

...NO GUY!

RIGHT HERE IN NEW YORK CITY...

BEER

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

JUST A *QUIET* EVENING ALONE...

KLIK

...I *MUST* BE THE LUCKIEST *MARTIAN* ON THE PLANET...

--IS THE *FIGHT* WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

TWO CHAMPIONS IN THE PRIME OF THEIR BOXING CAREERS!

COME TO THINK OF IT...YAWN...I'M THE ONLY MARTIAN ON THIS PLANET.

YAWN!

MORE TIRED THAN I...

IF YOU'VE BEEN WAITING TO SEE THIS BOUT--

--YOU'RE IN FOR A BATTLE ROYAL!

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

LET'S GET READY TO RRRUMBLE!

THAT'S "TROUBLE" WITH A "T"--

--THAT RHYMES WITH "C"--

--AND THAT STANDS FOR--

TAXI

--TRANSVESTITES, SIAMESE TWINS, AND SKINHEADS, SO WHY NOT A LOOSE CANNON?

AFTER THE SHOW, GERALDO TAKES ME ASIDE AND SAYS...

..."FIRST TIME IN NEW YORK? YOU SHOULD ENJOY YOURSELF."

AND ARE YOU ENJOYING YOURSELF, MR. CANNON?

DON'T FORGET. I'M NEXT!

SURE BEATS MY DAY JOB.

HEY.

BUMP

LISTEN, MEAT, YOU SPILLED MY SUDS--

UM... MISTER... I WOULDN'T DO--

--SHUT UP! I THINK YOUR FRIEND HERE OUGHTA LICK IT UP.

WHAT'S WITH YOU MOOKS IN NEW YORK?

GOT NO RESPECT FOR THE LADIES?

N-NO, I MEAN, YES.

THAT'S GOOD. 'CAUSE YOU WOULDN'T WANNA MAKE ME PURPLE.

PURPLE?

WHEN I GET MAD. I CHANGE FROM BLUE TO PURPLE...

...TO RED.

AND YOU REALLY DON'T WANNA MAKE ME RED.

NOW I'M GONNA ENJOY A NICE QUIET EVENING WITH THESE LADIES...

...AND YOU OUGHTA GET YOURSELF A PAMPER.

TROUBLE...TROUBLE...TROUBLE...

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

?!

--IN ALL MY YEARS, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN ELEVEN AMAZING ROUNDS LIKE THAT--

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KNOCK KNOCK

NOBODY HOME.

GUESS WE SHOULD COME BACK IN THE MORNING.

I CAN'T COME BACK IN THE MORNING.

MY POWERS DON'T WORK IN THE--

YES?

--Um, MR. MARTIAN, SIR--

MR. MANHUNTER!

--RIGHT. UM, I'M JOE PUBLIC AND HE'S GEIST.

OTHER WAY AROUND.

SIR, BOTH OF US HAVE THESE WEIRD POWERS AND WE WERE WONDERING--

--IF YOU HAVE JUST A FEW MOMENTS TO GIVE US SOME ADVICE.

YEAH. UM. WHAT HE SAID.

NOW ISN'T A REALLY GOOD TIME.

OKAY. HOW ABOUT--?

TRY BACK ON MONDAY.

ASK FOR MR. GARDNER.

MAYBE SOMEBODY TAPED THE FIGHT.

WHO DO I KNOW WHO HAS CABLE?

ODD.

EEP!

BREAKING INTO MY HOME IS NOT THE WAY TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION!

WAIT. PLEASE! JUST HEAR ME OUT!

WE CAME ALL THE WAY FROM GOTHAM CITY.

HAVEN'T HAD ANY DINNER.

IF YOU COULD JUST GIVE US FIVE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME--

--THEN WE'LL GET OUT OF YOUR, um, HAIR.

--CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOUR SEEING US--

IS THIS WHERE SUPERMAN SITS?

JLA

YOU'VE GOT FOUR AND A HALF MINUTES NOW.

JUSTICE LEAGUERS!

PREPARE TO GET YOUR BUTTS KICKED!

NOW WHAT?!

UM, JOE...?

DON'T ASK ME. MAYBE THIS SORT OF THING GOES ON ALL THE TIME.

WHAT IS *THIS* ABOUT?

WILDMAN IS THE NAME!

THOSE *ALIENS* THAT KILLED ALL THEM PEOPLE-- THEY GAVE SOME OF US POWER!

I'M USING THAT POWER TO GET ME A REP.

AFTER TONIGHT, I'M GONNA BE THE GUY WHO WHIPPED THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S--

I THINK NOT.

FRIZZP

--ARRRGH!

THAT WENT WELL...

LADIES, I'M BEGINNING TO APPRECIATE THE "CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS."

IF WE WERE BACK IN METROP--

WONK!

EEEE!

OH, MY GAWD...OH, MY GAWD...

...I- I JUST REMEMBERED I LEFT THE STOVE ON BACK AT MY PLACE...

MISTER, I DON'T KNOW WHEN THE LAST TIME YOU HAD TWO GIRLS WANTING TO CRAWL UP YOUR LEG--

--BUT I'M GONNA MAKE IT SO IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO YOU SOON!

WAIT. I HAVE AN EXPLANATION--

POW!

NOT INTERESTED.

WHOOSH!

MAYBE. JUST MAYBE. I'M STILL ASLEEP...

...AND THIS IS ALL A VERY BAD DREAM!

BAM!

BACK FOR MORE?

WAIT, LADIES--

--I'LL CALL GERALDO--

--HE'LL SEND OVER ANOTHER LIMO!

KBOSH!

--BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I DO HAVE AN EXPLANATION.

MURDER'S TOO GOOD FOR YOU!

NOW LOOK, "LOOSE CANNON," ISN'T IT?

BUB, WHERE I'M SENDIN' YOU--

--IT DON'T MATTER WHO SENT YOU!

ENOUGH.

I NEED YOUR HELP.

AND IF YOU'LL JUST CALM DOWN FOR TEN SECONDS--

--I'LL GIVE YOU SOMEONE WHO DESERVES TO BE YOUR PUNCHING BAG.

HEY! ARE EITHER OF YOU JERKS JUSTICE LEAGUERS?

ER... NO!

THEN I CAN'T BE BOTHERED WITH YOUS...

ARE WE GONNA JUST LET HIM WALK AWAY?

IS THIS A MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION?

HOLD IT, UGLY. IF YOU WANT A FIGHT--

GO AHEAD--

--MAKE MY NIGHT!

KICK!

STOMP!

HUH?

WHERE'D THEY GO?

CHICKENS.

AND I GOT BIZNESS TO GET BACK TO...

OKAY... WE'RE HERE. WHAT'S THE PLAN?

ME?! I THOUGHT YOU HAD THE PLAN!

NO. I SAW YOU ON GERALDO.

HOW COME YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ME?

THE J.L.A. KEEP A FILE ON ME OR SOMETHING?

OH.

SO, THIS IS THE MUG WHO WANTS TO MAKE A REP FOR HIMSELF?

I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO CROWN HIM PUTZ OF THE YEAR!

KEEP IT UP, GEIST. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT'S HITTING HIM!

WHEN DOES THE CAVALRY GET HERE?

SPECIAL DELIVERY FOR MR. WILDMAN!

I'M WILDMAN--

MAN, I'M GONNA MAKE YOUR LIFE *MISERABLE!*

ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

I THINK.

KER-POW!

TAKES A REAL TALENT TO WRECK AN EVENING FROM 'CROSS TOWN.

WAY I FIGURE IT, I'M OUT A *LIMO*--

--A SUITE AT THE *PLAZA*--

--AND MY *GOOD TIME!*

TELL *HIM* THAT!

YOU KNOW THIS GUY?

HE'S *LOOSE CANNON!*

RELAX, GENTLEMEN, I'VE GOT YOU--

YEAH... BUT WHO'S GOT YOU?!

WUMP!

I DON'T WANT YOU--

--I CAME UP HERE TO CALL OUT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!

MISTER, YOU AREN'T EVEN READY FOR THE BUSH LEAGUE!

--THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...

GOTTA TRY DRAINING HIM...

...BEFORE SOMEONE GETS KILLED!

DIZZY... WHAT'S...

CANNON! HIT HIM NOW!

HIT HIM WITH EVERY-THING YOU'VE GOT!

BELIEVE ME, I DON'T NEED ANY ENCOURAGEMENT!

JOE... WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO HIM... AND ME?!

SAY, GOOD NIGHT--

SIPHONING OFF HIS ENERGY. IT'S WHAT I DO.

GLAD I ASKED.

ALTHOUGH MY POWER DOESN'T SEEM TO AFFECT CANNON'S RAGE...

--YOU UGLY MOTHER OF--

--PEARL!

NOOOO!

ALL RIGHT, WILDMAN, LET'S FINISH--

--WHERE'D THEY GO?

Um... YOU JUST MISSED THEM.

MEET ME DOWN THERE.

THANKS FOR THE LIFT.

C'MON. CANNON MAY NEED HELP.

I'M... RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE MEN...

...IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO LOOSE CANNON...

CANNON!

MISS ME?

WHAT HAPPENED TO WILDMAN?

HIM? OH, WE WON'T BE SEEIN' HIM NO MORE...

THEN...THERE IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD DISCUSS--

...OH, HERE IT COMES...

...YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THE WAY WE HANDLED IT? T.F.B.!

WE HANDLED IT!

DON'T TAKE ANY SPIT FROM THE GREEN GUY.

YOU MOOKS DID OKAY TONIGHT-- WITHOUT HIS HELP!

ALMOST DAWN. GOTTA SPLIT.

HE CERTAINLY LIVES UP TO HIS NAME!

ACTUALLY, GENTLEMEN, I DIDN'T WANT TO SCOLD YOU. I WANT TO APOLOGIZE.

I CAN SEE NOW THERE WOULD BE A MUTUAL BENEFIT TO WORKING WITH YOU NEW BLOODS.

I CAN'T SPEAK FOR GEIST OR CANNON-- BUT I'D LIKE TO THINK IT OVER.

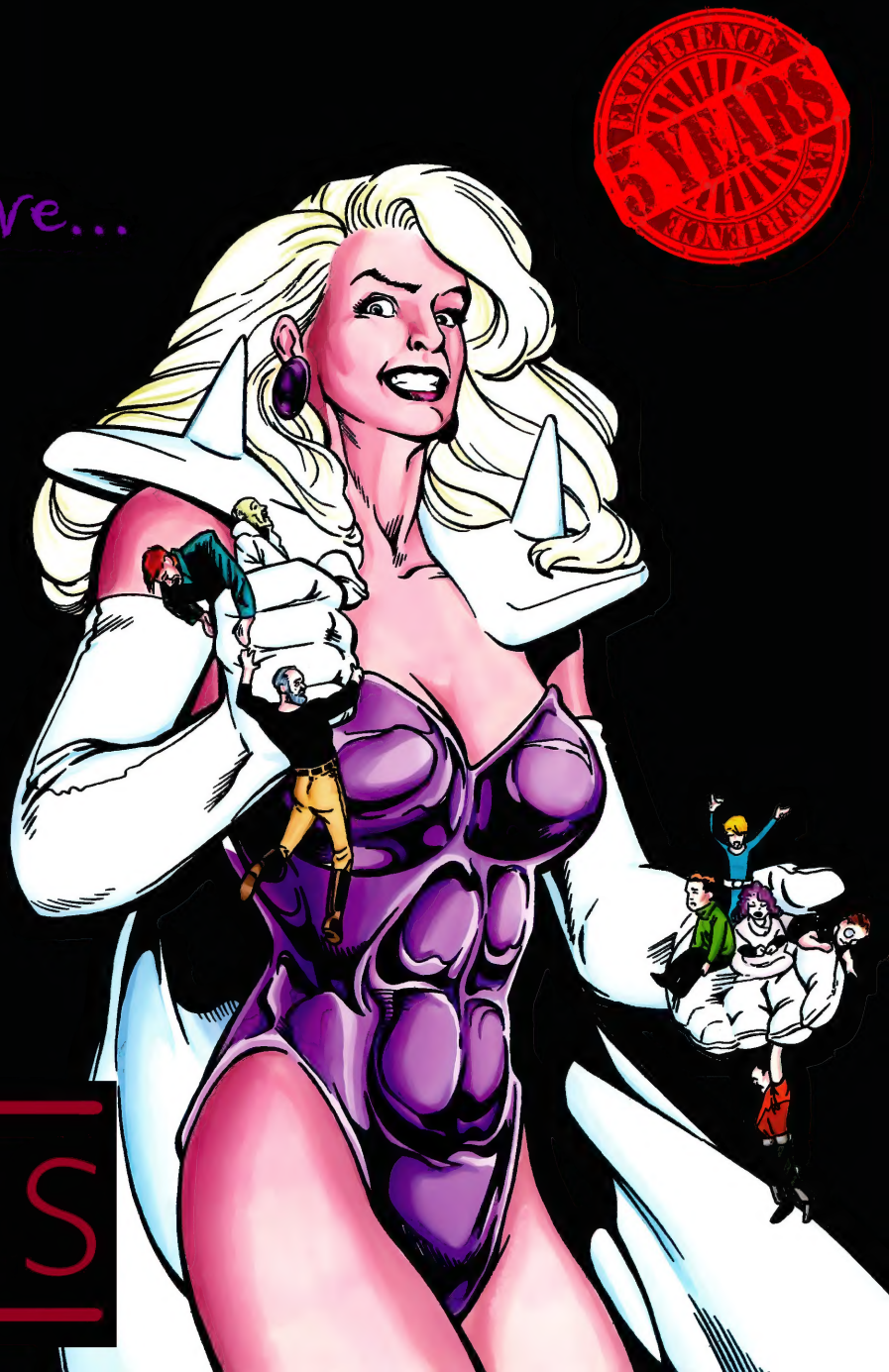
I...DOES THIS SORT OF THING HAPPEN OFTEN?

:SIGH!:

AND ALL I WANTED WAS A QUIET EVENING ALONE...

DEDICATED TO KEITH GIFFEN WHO TOLD THESE KINDS OF TALES BETTER THAN ANYONE! --Jeph

From Baaldur, with love...



GLORITH

novus